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**International Military Officers from Uzbekistan visit NAVSCOLEOD**

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Military officers from Uzbekistan visited the Naval School of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD) Aug. 1 for a familiarization tour.

Lt. Col. Muslim Minovarov and Maj. Azimjan Tilavov, along with their translator, toured the Demolition Division, Tools and Methods Division, Core Division, and Air Ordnance Division at NAVSCOLEOD, observing students training on how to handle different types of ordnance.

Realism is one of the focuses at NAVSCOLEOD and in several divisions the tour members witnessed how EOD students learn about bomb disposal through scenarios related to vehicle or aircraft scenarios.

“Everything on the tour was great and very close to real life,” said Minovarov. “This makes the training more effective.”

A typical emergency call for an EOD technician includes vehicles or aircraft that have been involved in incidents or accidents. Scenarios at NAVSCOLEOD include crash scenes, adding to the realism of the students’ education.

"This tour has been a good learning lesson," said Tilavov. "The crashed airplanes can be used to effectively teach students, and we hope that in the future we can send some of our military to attend here."

On the stop at the Core Division, the Uzbek officers observed an area where mines, bombs, guided missiles, grenades, rockets and projectiles are displayed. These aid in teaching students what to look for when identifying ordnance.

"We teach land mines to our students, but we do not teach air ordnance," said Minovarov. "It may be something we look into adding to our curriculum someday."

Although instructors at NAVSCOLEOD stress the importance of realism throughout training, using live explosives for every training evolution is not practical or necessary.

"We cannot use real explosives all the time," said Billy Martin, international military student officer in charge of the tour. "Instead of live explosives, NAVSCOLEOD uses time limits to simulate a stressful situation for the student."

The tour concluded at the quarterdeck, where the Uzbeks viewed a display of two bomb disposal robots and the developmental evolution of EOD-specific tools.

NAVSCOLEOD, located on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. provides high-risk, specialized, basic and advanced EOD training to more than 2,200 U.S. and partner nation military and selected U.S. government personnel each year.

For more information about the Naval School of Explosive Ordnance and Diving, visit the NAVSCOLEOD website:

<https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/ceneoddive/eods/>.

Additional information on the Naval Education and Training Command can be found at the NETC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

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Story by Ensign Elizabeth Allen, Public Affairs Officer, Center for Explosive Ordnance and Diving